

Three From Tony Place Wycombe On Top

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Tooting and Mitcham 0
VICTORY over Tooting and Mitcham on Saturday put Wycombe Wanderers at the top of the Isthmian League table for the first time this season, but it would have been more reassuring on championship prospects if the Surrey side had not afforded such surprisingly poor opposition.

Although they are fifth in the league table, Tooting have been in the doldrums since last November, and they certainly never looked like staging a revival on Saturday.

There was rarely anything in their disjointed forward moves to offer serious threat to the home goal, and Wycombe's Peter Eyres, who came in for the injured John Beck at right-back, had little chance to show his mettle.

Against a stubborn defence Wycombe Wanderers took a long time to establish their superiority. They had 80 per cent of the first-half play, claiming seven corner kicks to one by their opponents.

But it was left to the brightest opportunist on the field, Tony Horseman, to give them interval advantage, with a smart solo effort in the 35th minute.

BUSBY'S CHANCE

Vivian Busby, 17-years-old Youth international trialist, who deputised for Paul Bates as leader of the attack, revealed some neat touches—and at least two memorable attempts at goal, in spite of the close attentions of Tooting's experienced John Robertson.

He showed refreshing enterprise in much of his play and must rank as one of the club's most promising recruits.

Horseman and Samuels looked the likeliest marksmen and indeed the Wanderers would have crossed over considerably better off but for some smart saves by Tooting's own Youth trialist, 17-years-old Dickie Guy, who showed excellent form in goal.

FORWARD SHUFFLE

To try to show results Tooting made a wholesale re-shuffle of their forward line in the second half and it certainly produced a livelier pace for a time.

It served, too, to infuse a greater sense of urgency into the Wanderers' own play and nine minutes after resumption Merrick whipped briskly down the left wing and smashed in a shot which Guy checked but failed to hold.

This goal finally dashed the visitors' slender hope of snatching a point. With young Guy's confidence shaken and skipper Holder often forsaking defence in a determined if despairing sally up-field, Tooting were often wide open to assault and surviving precariously.

A PENALTY

And in the 72nd minute a foul by left-back Fillery gave Horseman another chance to demonstrate his precision from the penalty spot.

One or two cannon-ball shots from Merrick, who had an excellent second-half, and several goal-worthy efforts by Busby, Samuels and Horseman enlivened the Wanderers' almost non-stop seige in the closing stages before Horseman broke through again seven minutes before the end to add a well-deserved fourth and another hat-trick to his imposing tally of 40 goals so far this season.

Not one of the Wanderers' most polished or potent performances—but good enough for unhappy Tooting.

Wycombe Wanderers—J. Maskell; P. Eyres, P. Royston; B. Baker, J. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, V. Busby, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

Tooting and Mitcham—R. Guy; K. Holder, D. Fillery, T. Nelson, J. Robertson, F. Ruel; S. Chambers, L. McGill, C. Johnson, E. Green, R. Bernard.